(a) whether it is a fact that Government have entrusted the work relating to exploration of crude oil and natural gas reserves to some organisations;

(b) if so, the name of the organisation and the oil and gas reserves explored by that organisations during the last three years; and

(c) the quantity of oil and gas assessed in these new reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Exploration of crude oil and natural gas is carried out at present by National Oil Companies (NOCs) namely, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) as also by other NOCs and private sector companies such as, Cairn Energy India Pvt. Ltd., Phoenix Overseas Ltd., Essar Oil, Reliance Industries Ltd., Joshi Technologies, Niko Resources, Mosbacher and OAO-Gazprom-Russia.

(c) The in-place reserves of oil equivalent of gas (O+OEG) accreted during last three years are as follows :—

| | O+OEG (Million Metric Tonne) |
|---|---|
| 1998-1999 | 95.39 |
| 1999-2000 | 112.49 |
| 2000-2001 | 164.22 |

**Fixation of Royalty of Crude Oil and Gas**

2382. DR. A.K. PATEL :
SHRI RAJU PARMAR :
DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the present policy of Government regarding fixation of royalty rates of crude oil and gas;

(b) whether Government have any plan to revise the same;

(c) if so, whether any committees have been set up for the purpose and if so, the findings of those Committees; and

(d) what is Government's opinion regarding the suggestions of these Committees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Royalty on crude oil and natural gas is payable at the rates fixed by the Central Government from time to time pursuant to the provisions of Oil Fields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959 framed thereunder, as amended from time to time. Under provisions of the above said Rules, royalty on the crude oil and natural gas produced from offshore is payable to Central Government and that from onshore areas to the State Government. The Rules also provide that the Royalty on crude oil and natural gas cannot exceed 20 per cent of the selling price at well-head. Royalty on crude oil is payable on flat rate basis and on *ad-valorem* basis for natural gas for the cases where Petroleum Exploration Licenses (PELs) and Petroleum Mining Leases (PMLs), other than the PELs/PMLs under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) or on NELP terms, had been granted to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL). Royalty on crude oil is payable on flat rate basis and on *ad-valorem* basis for natural gas for the cases, where PELs and PMLs, other than the PELs/PMLs under NELP, are held by Private Companies pursuant to the Production Sharing Contracts signed by Government of India. Royalty on both crude oil and natural gas is payable on ad-valorem basis for the cases, where PELs have been granted under NELP or NELP terms. A Committee to evolve a new scheme of royalty on crude oil applicable with effect from 1-4-1998 was constituted by the Government. The committee has submitted its report on 26-11-2001, which is under examination by the Government.

**Off-Shore Gas Pipeline from Tapti Fields**

2383. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether additional gas will be supplied through the off-shore gas pipeline from Tapti fields:

(b) whether laying of this pipeline will take time; and

(c) if so, by when, the gas will be made available at Ex-Hazira for further use of other Power Projects of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The availability and supply of additional gas from the Tapti field depend upon the outcome of the New Revised Plan of Development for which no time could be fixed.